



U.S., China aides to meet as tensions mount over Russia

By AAMER MADHANI and JOSH BOAK

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. and China are sending top aides to meet in Rome on Monday amid mounting tensions between the two countries over the Russia-Ukraine war and as a U.S. official reports that Russia in recent days has asked China for military equipment to help press its campaign. In advance of the talks, White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan bluntly warned China to avoid helping Russia evade punishment from global sanctions that have hammered the Russian economy. "We will not allow that to go forward," he said. U.S. officials are also accusing China of spreading Russian disinformation that could be a pretext

for chemical or biological weapons attacks launched by Vladimir Putin's forces in Ukraine.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has put China in a delicate spot with two of its biggest trading partners: the U.S. and European Union. China needs access to those markets, yet it also has made gestures supportive of Moscow, joining with Russia in declaring a friendship with "no limits."

In his talks with senior Chinese foreign policy adviser Yang Jiechi, Sullivan will indeed be looking for limits in what Beijing will do for Moscow.

"I'm not going to sit here publicly and brandish threats," he told CNN in a round of Sunday news show interviews.

Continued on next page



White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan speaks during a press briefing at the White House, Feb. 11, 2022, in Washington.

Associated Press

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Continued from Front

"But what I will tell you is we are communicating directly and privately to Beijing that there absolutely will be consequences" if China helps Russia "backfill" its losses from the sanctions. "We will not allow that to go forward and allow there to be a lifeline to Russia from these economic sanctions from any country anywhere in the world," he said.

A U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive matters, said that in recent days,



Chinese foreign policy adviser Yang Jiechi, speaks at the opening session of US-China talks at the Captain Cook Hotel in Anchorage, Alaska, March 18, 2021.

Associated Press

Russia had requested support from China, including military equipment, to press forward in its ongoing war

with Ukraine. The official did not provide details on the scope of the request. The request was first reported by The Washington Post. The White House said the talks will focus on the direct impact of Russia's war against Ukraine on regional and global security.

Biden administration officials say Beijing is spreading false Russian claims that Ukraine was running chemical and biological weapons labs with U.S. support. They say China is effectively providing cover if Russia moves ahead with a biological or chemical weapons attack on Ukrainians. When Russia starts accusing other countries of preparing to launch biological or chemical attacks, Sullivan told NBC's "Meet the Press," "it's a good tell that they may be on the cusp of doing it themselves."

Pentagon spokesman John Kirby, on ABC's "This Week," said "we haven't seen anything that indicates some sort of imminent chemical or biological attack right now, but we're watching this very, very closely."

The striking U.S. accusations about Russian disinformation and Chinese complicity came after Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova alleged with no evidence that the U.S. was financing Ukrainian chemical and biological weapons labs.

The Russian claim was echoed by Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian, who claimed there were 26 bio-labs and related facilities in "which the U.S. Department of Defense has absolute control." The United Nations has said it has received no information backing up such accusations.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki called the claims "preposterous."

"Now that Russia has made these false claims, and

China has seemingly endorsed this propaganda, we should all be on the lookout for Russia to possibly use chemical or biological weapons in Ukraine, or to create a false flag operation using them," Psaki tweeted last week. "It's a clear pattern."

Sullivan told "Face the Nation" on CBS that the Russian rhetoric on chemical and biological warfare is "an indicator that, in fact, the Russians are getting ready to do it and try and pin the blame elsewhere and nobody should fall for that."

The international community for years has assessed that Russia has used chemical weapons in carrying out assassination attempts against Putin detractors such as Alexei Navalny and former spy Sergei Skripal. Russia also supports the Assad government in Syria, which has used chemical weapons against its people in a decade-long civil war. Testifying before the Senate Intelligence Committee on Thursday, CIA Director William Burns also noted grave concern that Russia might be laying the groundwork for a chemical or biological attack of its own, which it would then blame on the U.S. or Ukraine in a false flag operation.

"This is something, as all of you know very well, is very much a part of Russia's playbook," he said. "They've used these weapons against their own citizens, they've at least encouraged the use in Syria and elsewhere, so it's something we take very seriously."

China has been one of few countries to avoid criticizing the Russians for its invasion of Ukraine. China's Xi Jinping hosted Putin for the opening of the Winter Olympics in Beijing, just weeks before Russia launched the Feb. 24 invasion. □



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Justice Thomas slams cancel culture, 'packing' Supreme Court

By **SAM METZ**

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas said he's concerned efforts to politicize the court or add additional justices may erode the institution's credibility, speaking Friday in Utah at an event hosted by former Republican U.S. Sen. Orrin Hatch's foundation.

Thomas, the most senior justice on the nine-member court, said he often worries about the long-term repercussions of trends such as "cancel culture" and a lack of civil debate.

"You can cavalierly talk about packing or stacking the court. You can cavalierly talk about doing this or doing that. At some point the institution is going to be compromised," he told an audience of about 500 people at an upscale hotel in Salt Lake City. "By doing this, you continue to chip away at the respect of the institutions that the next generation is going to need if they're going to have civil society," Thomas said.

Rulings this year will set laws on hot-button political issues, including abortion, guns and voting rights.

The court has leaned increasingly conservative since three justices nominated by former President Donald Trump joined its ranks. Progressives have in turn called to expand the number of justices on the court, including during the 2020 presidential primary. Democrats in Congress introduced a bill last



In this Nov. 30, 2018 photo, Supreme Court Associate Justice Clarence Thomas sits for a group portrait at the Supreme Court Building in Washington.

Associated Press

year to add four justices to the bench, and President Joe Biden has convened a commission to study expanding the court.

"I'm afraid, particularly in this world of cancel culture attack, I don't know where you're going to learn to engage as we did when I grew up," he said. "If you don't learn at that level in high school, in grammar school, in your neighborhood, or in civic organizations, then how do you have it when

you're making decisions in government, in the legislature, or in the courts?"

In addition to condemning "cancel culture," Thomas also blasted the media for cultivating inaccurate impressions about public figures — including himself, his wife and late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia.

Ginni Thomas, Justice Thomas's wife and a long-time conservative activist, has faced scrutiny this year

for her political activity and involvement in groups that file briefs about cases in front of the Supreme Court, as well as using her Facebook page to amplify partisan attacks.

As Congress prepares to hold confirmation hearings for Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson, Thomas recalled his 1991 confirmation process as a humiliating and embarrassing experience that taught him not to be overly prideful. During

congressional hearings, lawmakers grilled Thomas about sexual harassment allegations from Anita Hill, a former employee, leading him to call the experience a "high tech lynching."

If confirmed, Jackson would be the first Black woman on the court, and would join Thomas as the current court's second Black justice.

Thomas, who grew up in Georgia during segregation, said he held civility as one of his highest values. He said he learned to respect institutions and debate civilly with those who disagreed with him during his years in school. Based on conversations he's had with students at his university lectures in recent years, he said he doesn't believe colleges are welcoming places for productive debate, particularly for students who support what he described as traditional families or oppose abortion.

Thomas did not reference the future of *Roe v. Wade*, the landmark 1973 Supreme Court decision that extended abortion rights throughout the country. The court this year is scheduled to rule on *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* and whether Mississippi can ban abortions at 15 weeks. While the court deliberates over the case, lawmakers in Florida, West Virginia and Kentucky are advancing similar legislation hoping the court overturns *Roe* and establishes new precedent. □

Obama tests positive for COVID-19, says he's 'feeling fine'

The Associated Press

Former President Barack Obama said on Sunday that he had tested positive for the coronavirus, though he's feeling relatively healthy and his wife, Michelle, tested negative. "I've had a scratchy throat for a couple days, but am feeling fine otherwise," Obama said on Twitter. "Michelle and I are grateful to be vaccinated and

boosted."

Obama encouraged more Americans to get vaccinated against the coronavirus, despite the declining infection rate in the U.S.

There were roughly 35,000 infections on average over the past week, down sharply from mid-January when that average was closer to 800,000.

The Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention report that 75.2% of U.S. adults are fully vaccinated and 47.7% of the fully vaccinated have received a booster shot. The CDC relaxed its guidelines for indoor masking in late February, taking a more holistic approach that meant the vast majority of Americans live in areas without the recommendation for indoor masking in public. □



Former President Barack Obama speaks during a memorial service for former Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid at the Smith Center in Las Vegas, Jan. 8, 2022.

Associated Press

Video shows man stabbing 2 workers at New York's MOMA

By **MARINA VILLENUEVE and BRYAN GALLION**

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Video from the Museum of Modern Art shows the moment a man leaped over a reception desk and stabbed two employees as they tried to flee Saturday.

The video released by New York City police shows a man police identified as 60-year-old Gary Cabana entering the museum lobby through a revolving door then climbing onto the desk and jumping over it as a man carrying what appears to be a walkie-talkie tries in vain to stop him.

Police were still searching for Cabana as of Sunday morning.

The man, wearing a black wool hat and a surgical mask, approaches three employees who are trapped in the small space and stabs one of them — a young woman who is able to run away seconds later — though not before she is stabbed again in the back. The attacker then stabs the second employee as the man with the walkie-talkie hurls a notebook at him. That appears to distract the attacker long enough for the second victim to flee. The third employee can be seen getting up from the



In this photo from a social media post by Scott Cowdrey, people are evacuated from the Museum of Modern Art where a stabbing occurred, Saturday, March 12, 2022, in New York.

Associated Press

ground after the attacker runs away.

Authorities said Saturday that the two museum employees, a 24-year-old man and 24-year-old woman, were both stable with non-life-threatening injuries. Their names weren't released.

According to police, Cabana was denied entrance Saturday for previous incidents of disorderly conduct. John Miller, NYPD deputy commissioner of intelligence and counterter-

rorism, said his membership had been revoked for two separate incidents of disorderly behavior at the museum in recent days.

A letter informing Cabana of his expired membership had been sent out Friday, but he came to the museum Saturday saying he intended to see a film there, according to police.

He then became upset and stabbed the museum employees in the back, collarbone and the back of neck, Miller said. They

were rushed within minutes to the hospital.

Miller said Saturday that the video showed which way the suspect went after leaving the museum. Police shared photos of Cabana late Saturday night, asking for the public's help finding him.

The department has no record of a previous arrest for the man.

The museum didn't immediately respond to an emailed request for comment on the incident, but

said on social media that it would be closed to the public Sunday.

The midtown Manhattan museum evacuated its patrons Saturday afternoon. Yuichi Shimada, a museumgoer present at the time of the attack, tweeted he was on the second floor when a couple suddenly came running toward him, and he heard security guards' radios throughout the museum loudly announcing something at the same time.

"It was chaotic, partly because it was snowing, with a group of young women in a panic and crying," Shimada said. "Not being good with claustrophobia myself, I headed for the exit early."

Shimada was diverted to the side on his way out as a stretcher was hurriedly brought in. Police vehicles and ambulances, emergency lights flashing, thronged outside the museum as dozens of patrons hurried away.

Mayor Eric Adams tweeted Saturday evening he'd been briefed on the attack and said the victims' injuries were not life-threatening.

"We're grateful for the quick work of our first responders," Adams, a former NYPD captain, said. □

Police: Ammon Bundy arrested in trespassing case



Far-right activist Ammon Bundy is dragged from the Idaho Senate Chambers gallery by Idaho State Troopers after returning to the Idaho Statehouse in Boise, Idaho, Aug. 26, 2020.

Associated Press

MERIDIAN, Idaho (AP) — Far-right activist Ammon Bundy, who's running for governor in Idaho, has been arrested after refusing to leave a hospital in connection with a child-

welfare case, police said Saturday.

Bundy was arrested at about 1:15 a.m. on suspicion of misdemeanor trespassing at St. Luke's Meridian Medical Center in

Meridian, west of Boise, the Idaho Statesman reported. Bundy is well-known for participating in armed standoffs with law enforcement, notably at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon in 2016, which left one man dead, and on federal land near his family's ranch in Nevada in 2014.

He's also scheduled to stand trial this week on three charges from a previous trespassing case at the Idaho Capitol.

The arrest Saturday concerned a 10-month-old determined to be "suffering from severe malnourishment" and at risk of injury or death, the Meridian Police Department said in a news release. The baby's parents had refused to let officers

check on its welfare after the family canceled an appointment.

Bundy urged his followers to go to the hospital to support the family.

Bundy wrote on Twitter on Saturday that "last night my very good friend Diego's grandson was medically kidnapped because a medical practitioner called (child protective services) for a missed doctor appointment. If this happened to them, it could happen to you."

One other person was arrested on suspicion of trespassing at the hospital, and two people were arrested earlier Friday in a related incident on suspicion of resisting or obstructing police. Bundy, of Emmett, was

charged in the Oregon and Nevada standoffs. He was acquitted in Oregon and the Nevada charges were dismissed after a mistrial.

He is set to go on trial Monday for two charges of misdemeanor trespassing and one charge of resisting or obstructing officers after he was arrested twice in one day at the Idaho Capitol in April 2021.

At the time he was subject to a one-year ban from the Statehouse due to previous trespassing, when he refused to leave an auditorium at the Idaho Statehouse in August 2020 during a protest of the Legislature's special session and was rolled out of the building by police in a chair. □

Iran claims missile barrage near U.S. consulate in Iraq

By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA

Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iran claimed responsibility Sunday for a missile barrage that struck near a sprawling U.S. consulate complex in northern Iraq, saying it was retaliation for an Israeli strike in Syria that killed two members of its Revolutionary Guard earlier this week. Iraq's Foreign Ministry on Sunday summoned Iran's ambassador to protest the attack, calling it a flagrant violation of the country's sovereignty.

No injuries were reported in Sunday's attack on the city of Irbil, which marked a significant escalation between the U.S. and Iran. Hostility between the long-time foes has often played out in Iraq, whose government is allied with both countries.

The attack drew harsh condemnation from the Iraqi government, which called it a "violation of international law and norms" and demanded an explanation from the Iranian leadership. Iraq's Foreign Ministry spokesman Ahmad al-Sahhaf told The Associated Press that the ministry summoned the Iranian ambassador, Iraj Masjedi, to deliver the diplomatic protest. The United States said the missile strike emanated from Iran and strongly condemned it.

"The strikes were an outrageous violation of Iraq's sovereignty. No U.S. facilities were damaged or personnel injured, and we have no indications the attack was directed at the United States," State Department spokesman Ned Price told reporters in Washington.

Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guard said on its website that it attacked what it described as an Israeli spy center in Irbil. It did not elaborate, but in a statement said Israel had been on the offensive, citing the recent strike that killed two members of the Revolutionary Guard. The semi-official Tasnim news agency quoted an unnamed source as saying Iran fired 10 Fateh missiles, including several Fateh-110 missiles, which



A house damaged by an Iranian ballistic missile attack is seen in Irbil, Iraq, Sunday, March 23, 2022.

have a range of about 300 kilometers (186 miles).

The source claimed the attack resulted in multiple casualties. There was no immediate comment from Israel on the allegations or the Iranian missile barrage. An Iraqi official in Baghdad initially said several missiles had hit the U.S. consulate in Irbil, which is new and unoccupied, adding that it had been the intended target of the attack. Later, Lawk Ghafari, the head of Kurdistan's foreign media office, said none of the missiles had struck the U.S. facility but that residential areas around the compound had been hit.

Following a Cabinet meeting, the Iraqi government in Baghdad reiterated its refusal to allow Iraq to be used to settle scores between other countries and said it has requested an explanation from the Iranian leadership.

Satellite broadcast channel Kurdistan24, which is located near the U.S. consulate, went on air from their studio shortly after the attack, showing shattered

glass and debris on their studio floor.

The attack came several days after Iran said it would retaliate for an Israeli strike near Damascus, Syria, that killed two members of its Revolutionary Guard. On Sunday, Iran's state-run IRNA news agency quoted Iraqi media acknowledging the attacks in Irbil, without saying where they originated.

The missile barrage coincided with regional tensions. Negotiations in Vienna over Tehran's tattered nuclear deal hit a "pause" over Russian demands about sanctions targeting Moscow for its war on Ukraine. Meanwhile, Iran suspended its secret Baghdad-brokered talks aimed at defusing yearslong tensions with regional rival Saudi Arabia, after Saudi Arabia carried out its largest known mass execution in its modern history with over three dozens Shiites killed.

Iraqi security officials said there were no casualties from the Irbil attack, which they said occurred after midnight and caused ma-

terial damage in the area. They spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

One of the Iraqi officials said the ballistic missiles were fired from Iran, without elaborating. He said the Iranian-made Fateh-110 missiles likely were fired in retaliation for the two Revolutionary Guards killed in Syria.

U.S. forces stationed at Irbil's airport compound have come under fire from rocket and drone attacks in the past, with U.S. officials blaming Iran-backed groups.

The top U.S. commander for the Middle East has repeatedly warned about the increasing threats of attacks from Iran and Iranian-backed militias on troops and allies in Iraq and Syria. In an interview with The Associated Press in December, Marine Gen. Frank McKenzie said that while U.S. forces in Iraq have shifted to a non-combat role, Iran and its proxies still want all American troops to leave the country. As a result, he said, that may

trigger more attacks.'

The Biden administration decided last July to end the U.S. combat mission in Iraq by Dec. 31, and U.S. forces gradually moved to an advisory role last year. The troops will still provide air support and other military aid for Iraq's fight against the Islamic State.

The U.S. presence in Iraq has long been a flash point for Tehran, but tensions spiked after a January 2020 U.S. drone strike near the Baghdad airport killed a top Iranian general. In retaliation, Iran launched a barrage of missiles at al-Asad airbase, where U.S. troops were stationed. More than 100 service members suffered traumatic brain injuries in the blasts.

More recently, Iranian proxies are believed responsible for an assassination attempt late last year on Iraq's Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi.

And officials have said they believe Iran was behind the October drone attack at the military outpost in southern Syria where American troops are based. No U.S. personnel were killed or injured in the attack.

Al-Kadhimi tweeted: "The aggression which targeted the dear city of Irbil and spread fear amongst its inhabitants is an attack on the security of our people." Masrour Barzani, prime minister of the semi-autonomous Kurdish-controlled region, condemned the attack. In a Facebook post, he said Irbil "will not bow to the cowards who carried out the terrorist attack." □

ARUBA CLEAN



IS MORE DUSHI

Anti-war protests across Europe, small rallies in Russia

BERLIN (AP) — Tens of thousands of people rallied Sunday in cities across Europe to protest against Russia's ongoing war in Ukraine, with small vigils taking place in Russia as well despite a crackdown by authorities against such demonstrations.

German trade unions called a protest in Berlin, where sunny weather boosted the turnout. The march led from the city's Alexanderplatz — a large square named after Russian Tsar Alexander I — to a site near the Brandenburg Gate.

Many participants carried flags in the blue and yellow colors of Ukraine, while others bore banners reading "Stop the War" and "Peace and Solidarity for the people in Ukraine."

Norbert Herring, who held up a sign that read "What are you doing to your neighbor?" as the crowds filed past the Russian Embassy, said the images from Ukraine reminded him of the bombing of cities during World War II.

Several participants at the Berlin protest said they were Russians ashamed about what their country was doing.

"We're against this war so we wanted to show our solidarity," said Aleksan-



People attend a pro-Ukraine protest rally in Berlin, Germany, Sunday, March 13, 2022.

Associated Press

dra Belozerova, a Russian studying in Germany. "It's the least we can do in this situation."

Her friend, Aliia Biktagirova, held a sign with letters for the Russian phrase for "No War" represented as asterisks to reflect the censorship she said is taking place in Russia concerning the conflict.

In Russia, where demonstrations against the war in Ukraine have been typically met with a heavy police response, rights group OVD-Info said more than 668 people had been de-

tained in 36 cities as of late afternoon Moscow time.

There was a heavy police presence at central locations including Manezhnaya Square near the Kremlin, with officers carrying demonstrators away to waiting police vans, in footage posted by Russian media. The number of people protesting nationwide appeared to be far fewer than the last major protests a week ago, when OVD-Info listed more than 5,000 people who were detained.

Anti-war protests were also

staged in Warsaw, London and the German cities of Frankfurt, Hamburg and Stuttgart.

A small far-right party organized a protest in Serbia's capital, Belgrade, in support of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The occupants of dozens of cars waved Russian and Serbian flags, honked horns and chanted slogans in favor of Russian President Vladimir Putin. Some cars had "Z" painted on them — the letter is used on Russian armored vehicles in Ukraine and is now a symbol of sup-

port for Russian troops. Despite formally seeking European Union membership, Serbia has refused to join international sanctions against its ally Russia despite voting in favor of the U.N. resolution condemning Moscow's aggression. The country's dominant state-controlled media carry frequent pro-Russia reports about the war.

One day after rallies in Florence and Naples, Italians and Ukrainians who live in Italy turned out for protests in Milan and Rome on Sunday against the war in Ukraine.

In the first row of a march in Milan, Italy's financial capital, protesters held bloodied cloth bundles to represent children killed in Russian attacks on Ukrainians. Some children held drawings, and many marchers streaked their cheeks in the colors of the Ukrainian flag. Before the march, protesters stretched out an enormous, rainbow-colored peace flag in a Milan square.

In Rome's march, one of the participants held a cardboard sign that read, "Close the Sky," an apparent reference to Ukraine's plea to NATO to establish a no-fly zone over Ukraine against Russian warplanes. □

Official: Drone that crashed in Croatia carried a bomb



Police inspect site of a drone crash in Zagreb, Croatia, Friday, March 11, 2022.

Associated Press

ZAGREB, Croatia (AP) — A military drone that apparently flew all the way from the Ukrainian war zone over three European NATO-

member states before crashing in an urban zone of the Croatian capital was armed with an explosive device, Croatia's defense

minister said Sunday.

The Soviet-made aircraft crossed Romania and Hungary before entering Croatia, slamming into a field near a student dormitory late Thursday.

About 40 parked cars were damaged in the large explosion, but no one was injured.

"Traces of explosives and clues suggesting that this was not a reconnaissance aircraft were found. We found parts of an air bomb," Croatian Defense Minister Mario Banozic said at the crash site.

He said that this further raises a question about whether the drone belonged to Russia or Ukraine.

"There are elements that

indicated it could have come from both," he said. Air crash investigators have pulled most of the drone's remaining parts from a large crater it created on impact, including a partly damaged black box that should reveal the drone's flight path.

Croatian officials have criticized NATO for what they called a slow reaction to a very serious incident and called into question the readiness of the military alliance's member states to respond to a possible attack.

NATO said the alliance's integrated air and missile defense had tracked the object's flight path. But Croatian officials said

the country's authorities weren't informed and that NATO reacted only after questions were posed by journalists.

"If this situation had been detected and resolved in time in neighboring countries, we would not be here today," Banozic said.

"We will seek answers to what happened. The defense ministers of Romania and Hungary said that day they were evaluating what happened. We are waiting for an answer," he said.

Croatian investigators identified the unmanned aircraft that crashed in Zagreb as a Soviet-era Tu-141 that was used for reconnaissance missions in both countries in the 1980s. □



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Vatican in 'pain' at Nicaragua expulsion of papal nuncio

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The Vatican on Saturday expressed "surprise and pain" at Nicaragua's expulsion of the papal nuncio, which comes at a time of growing pressure on opposition figures in the Central American nation.

The church said in a statement that Nicaragua's action against Polish Msgr. Waldemar Stanislaw Sommertag was "grave and unjustified."

It said the action was "incomprehensible" because Sommertag "has worked tirelessly for the good of the church and of the Nicaraguan people," while "always seeking to promote good relations" between the Vatican and Nicaraguan authorities.

It noted he had functioned as a formal witness during government talks with the opposition.

The Vatican office in Nicaragua's capital, Managua, announced on Monday that Sommertag had left the country on March 6, though it did not say why. His place was taken by the chargé d'affaires, Msgr. Marcel Mbaye Diouf.

The government has made no statement about the nuncio's departure.

Sommertag arrived in Managua in 2018 in the midst of a wave of protests against the government of President Daniel Ortega. At least 328 people were killed, 2,000 wounded, hundreds detained and 88,000



Archbishop Waldemar Stanislaw, right, speaks with journalists accompanied by Cardinal Leopoldo Brenes, at the Cathedral in Managua, Nicaragua, July 14, 2018.

Associated Press

fled into exile, according to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. Ortega had tried to maintain cordial relations with the Roman Catholic Church in years before the protests, but those ties increasingly soured in the aftermath.

The nuncio participated in efforts to mediate in the conflict and win the release of detained opposition figures.

At the end of last year, relatives of 46 detained opposition figures had asked Sommertag to intercede with Ortega, though nothing came of the effort.

In a November interview with The Associated Press,

Sommertag said his office had not received a formal request to intervene, but said it had worked "in favor of the most vulnerable, among those detainees of all categories, including political."

"I think intercession is more than just and necessary ...," he said. "But in the end, we know very well that things depend on the govern-

ment."

Ortega's government increased its crackdown on opposition leaders ahead of last year's presidential elections, arresting potential candidates against him as well as several dozen prominent journalists, leaders of nongovernmental organizations and other critics.

On Friday, a judge con-

victed journalist Cristiana Chamorro, a potential presidential contender and daughter of former President Violeta Chamorro — who had defeated Ortega in a 1990 election — of money laundering and other crimes.

The news site Confidencial, run by Cristiana Chamorro's brother Carlos Fernando Chamorro, reported that she, two members of her mother's foundation, a driver, as well as a former law-maker and other Chamorro sibling Pedro Joaquín Chamorro were all convicted Friday at the conclusion of a seven-day trial.

Ortega has targeted non-governmental organizations in Nicaragua, cutting off their foreign funding, seizing their offices and canceling their charters. He has alleged they worked with foreign interests that wanted to see him removed from office.

Cristiana Chamorro, 68, had previously served as editor of La Prensa, Nicaragua's largest newspaper. Her father, Pedro Joaquín Chamorro had been its editor until his murder in 1978. □



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PALM BEACH — MedCare's Fit2Fly COVID-19 Testing Centers has improved its services when it comes to turn around time for results. As of November its offering same day test results (previously it was 24 hours) on both PCR and Antigen tests.

This in part is to comply with the updated December 6, CDC requirement for travel to the United States, where all air passengers, regardless of vaccination status, must show a negative COVID-19 test taken no more than 1 day before travel to the United States.

MedCare Fit2Fly Testing Center at the Cove Mall is opposite the Holiday Inn and is open every day for walk-ins from 8 AM through 6 PM. MedCare's other location is situated at The Courtyard by Marriott Aruba Resort, is across the street from the RIU Hotel and is open every day from 8:00 AM until 2 PM. These two locations are at a stone's throw from your resort, condominium, or other vacation accommodation. Walk-ins are welcome.

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The Gelatissimo cups in 120ML and 450ML are available in three delicious flavors: Stracciatella, Hazelnut Crunch and Pistachio at Ling & Sons Food Market, Superfood Plaza and Super Do it Center Shaba. The Gelatissimo cups are beautifully packaged in the staple Gelatissimo purple and gold, they are easy to locate in the freezer aisle!

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Origin of Papiamentu- Aruba's native language

ORANJESTAD — Papiamentu, Creole language of ABC (Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao) is from the Cape Verdean Creole family (Cape Verdean language) and was taken to the Caribbean in the 9th century by the Cape Verdeans of that time (linings and slaves), experts in cane culture and sugar production, and who were hired by Jewish entrepreneurs who went to invest in this business in the Caribbean. Cape Verdeans taught this pre-industrial revolution technology (planting cane and producing sugar, which they had learned from Madeirans) to slaves from other African regions, and did so in their language, Cape Verde Creole (Cape Verdean language)

, hence the language implanted in Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao.

Unlike many interesting stories, wanting to link Papiamentu directly to Portuguese, Galician or Castilian (see Papiamentu, on Wikipedia - Portuguese version and Spanish version, where the Portuguese and Spanish, each claim the direct origin of Papiamentu), in fact, this is not true. Papiamentu is not direct from Portuguese, Galician or Castilian, it is from the Cape Verde Creole family (Cape Verdean language). You can see this best when it's saying obscene words and offending someone, precisely as they say today in both ABC and Cape Verde islands. The obscene words

kept the original, had no lexical influence either from Castilian or Dutch. Also the Papi Cristang of Malacca, the Patuá of Macau, and several creoles from the east (from Daman, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Philippines, Indonesia) and Africa (Casamança, Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone and Nigeria, these last two releases to the English), all originated in the Creole of Cabo Verde (Cape Verdean language), which was the French language spoken in Portuguese feitories on the coast of Africa (from Senegal to Sierra Leone), and which was taken east by the thousands of cable - Verdeans (linings and slaves, already Christianized and speaking Creole) who served as sailors and

"slaves of arms" in Portuguese caravels, demanding the east. I don't know why the official history of Portugal usually omits this fact, which is in the chronicles of the quinrentist chroniclers, but which we never saw in the history of Portugal that we study from primary education to higher education. However, it has always been tried to deceive us, in colonial time, that we were descendants of Viriato (Iberian hero in the fight against the Romans) and the pastors of the Hermini Mountains, but not much speaking of our black-African ancestry.

We Cape Verdeans understand each other very well with these Antillans and Easterns, whose lan-

guage is from the same Creole family of Cape Verde (Cape Verdean language), speaking their Creole and we ours. Therefore, Papiamentu, Papi Cristang, Patuá Macaense and the creoles, said of Portuguese origin, Daman, India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, some locations in the Philippines and some places in Indonesia, are creoles of the language family Cape Verde Creole (Cape Verdean language) and indirectly the Galaico-Duriense or Galaico-Portuguese, a language that the people spoke in Portugal in the 6th and 7th century.

Anonymous
Source: Dushi Aruba



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Festival "A song for Aruba's National Anthem and Flag" was a great success

ORANJESTAD – The start of the celebrations in the cultural month dedicated to our National Anthem and Flag has resulted in great success.

On March 4, the National Cultural Concert, under the direction of Edjean Semeler and his orchestra, was held.

On March 5, the Cultural Promotion Commission organized the 19th edition of "A song for Aruba's Anthem and Flag" in the categories Children and Youth.

The results were as follows: Winners 19th edition of "A song for Aruba's Anthem and Flag" in the categories Children and Youth.

Children; 4 to 6 years,
Winner: Qu-Lainy Jansen.

Children; 7 to 9 years,
Second Place Jaymerson Kelly.

First Place: Ishem Howell-Broken.
Youth; 10 to 12 years.

Second Place: John-Maynard Wever
First Place: Stephanie Quant.

Youth - 13 to 17 years
Third Place: Jorienne Angela.

Second Place: Daniella and Gabriella Boasman
First Place: Gismay Linarez.

Winners 25th edition Aruba's Anthem and Flag Festival for adults. The 25th edition of the adult Festival organized by the Cultural Foundation for Folkloric Festivals took place on March 6, 2022.

The results are as follow:
Third Place Jerwin Hernandez - Fuerte - Tipico Suona - Composer Lurena Schwengele - Arranger Raul Piar.

Second Place: Mitch Almary - Hunto nos ta lanta bek - Tsunami - Composer Edselyn Figaroa and John Freddy Tobon Montoya - Arranger Michael Odor.

Winners: Ruth Gaarie & Stephanie Gravenhorst - Ora bo wak na shelo - Composer John Freddy Tobon Montoya - Arranger Federico Martis and Igmar Maduro.

The attending public enjoyed the presentations, and the local food, bar, sweets, and artisan work.

Minister of Culture, Xiomara Maduro congratulates all winners and participants.

Owner of Cog Railway proposes lodging on Mount Washington

By **MICHAEL CASEY**
Associated Press

The owner of a historic railway that runs up Mount Washington is proposing to build upscale accommodations and a restaurant near the summit of New Hampshire's highest peak. Mount Washington Cog Railway owner Wayne Presby said the nearly \$14 million project would station 18 rail cars at an elevation around 5,800 feet (1,670 meters) from mid May through mid October. Nine sleeper cars would accommodate up to 70 guests who would pay similar rates to those charged on other sleepers. "There is a demand for it. People want to stay up on the mountain," Presby said of the project that will require state and county permits and take up to seven years to complete. "They want better facilities than what are being offered up there by the state of New Hampshire and everybody else."

The project, presented earlier this month to the Mount Washington Commission, comes several years after Presby scrapped a plan to build a 35-room hotel on the mountain. That project came under widespread criticism from environmentalists and hikers, who argued the 25,000-square-foot (2,300-square-meter) hotel would damage the fragile alpine ecology and destroy the scenic views. Presby said the latest proposal, which includes plans



A vintage coal-fired steam engine pushes a passenger car up the Cog Railway on a 3.8-mile journey to the summit of 6,288-foot Mount Washington in New Hampshire, Sunday, Sept. 24, 2017. Associated Press

to pipe sewage down the mountain and fiber-optic upgrades, has the support of the state. In exchange, the Cog would agree to not to pursue further expansion on the summit. A spokesperson for the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources did not immediately respond to a request for comment. It is unclear whether this proposal will garner the same opposition as the larger hotel project, when thousands of people signed a petition against it. Chris Thayer, who serves as the Appalachian Mountain Club's representative on the commission, called the proposal "creative in its approach to summit opera-

tion and visitor experience challenges" but he said it "deserves more careful consideration to impacts on highly sensitive natural resources and watershed aesthetics." David Govatski, a retired U.S. Forest Service forester who can see the site from his home in Jefferson, opposed the larger hotel. But he remains undecided this time around. Govatski believes the project could ease congestion from the throngs of summer tourists on the mountain, since it includes a shuttle from sleeper cars up to the summit, the highest peak in the Northeast at 6,288 feet (1.91 kilometers). Currently, the cog goes right to the

summit, resulting in hundreds of people getting on and off trains at one time. But he worries hotel guests could damage are alpine plants including Bigelow's sedge on the mountain and stress out the rare American pipit that nests in the area. Other people worry plans for brightly-colored rail cars — something Presby said could change to more neutral colors — would be out of place on the mountain. The area where the rail cars would sit has had its share of activities over the years. The Mount Washington Auto Road is nearby. There are fuel tanks there, a helipad and there once were barracks for a jet engine

testing lab. "They have done their planning. The concept looks good on paper but the devil is in the details. That is what we want to work out," Govatski said. "You have to balance the economic value of a railroad like that against the potential for the environmental impact, of increased usage at new location near the mountain top," he continued. "I remain neutral until I can really study what the impacts are." Mount Washington has been attracting more tourists in New Hampshire's North Country since the loss of the Old Man of the Mountain, a granite profile and state symbol that crumbled in 2003. The mountain draws over 300,000 visitors a year. The 65-year-old Presby, who has owned the railroad for nearly 40 years, said the project would partly fulfill his vision of bringing back hotels that once graced the mountain in the 1800s. Among them was the Summit House Hotel, which burned down in 1908. It would also bolster the Cog Railway's role as an economic engine, something the company has prided itself on since the train first started running more than 150 years ago. The region, which has among the state's lowest median income, is heavily reliant on tourism. The train brings 150,000 people each season up to the summit. □

Uber charging customers new fuel fee for rides, delivery

The Associated Press Citing record-high prices for gasoline, Uber is charging customers a new fuel fee to help offset costs for ride-hail and delivery drivers. The temporary surcharge will be either 45 cents or 55 cents for each Uber trip and either 35 cents or 45 cents for each Uber Eats order, depending on location, the company announced Friday. It will take effect on Wednesday. All the money will go directly to drivers, San Francisco-based Uber

said. The surcharge will be in effect for at least 60 days, after which Uber said it will assess the situation. The surcharges are based on the average trip distance and the increase in gas prices in each state, Uber said. As Russia's war in Ukraine has intensified, U.S. gas prices have reached record levels. The average price of gasoline in the U.S. hit a record \$4.17 a gallon this week as President Joe Biden banned imports of Rus-

sian oil, gas and coal in retaliation for the invasion of Ukraine. The amount of U.S. gasoline in storage fell last week as demand starts to increase with summer approaching. The increase in gas demand and the lower trend in inventories also are contributing to rising prices at the pump. A spokesperson for Uber rival Lyft didn't immediately respond to a question Saturday on whether it was considering a similar move. □



An Uber sign is displayed inside a car in Palatine, Ill., Thursday, Feb. 10, 2022. Associated Press

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 39 Notions

1 Make finer 40 Hide

5 Quite away

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18 Alludes

21 "You bet!"

22 Swivels

23 Flute

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Saturday's answer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44
45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55

A XYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

3-14

CRYPTOQUOTE

L G U G A L V G F S B G R Q G H J

S E H G A L O N W F Q N K J F Q G Y E A Z

X N F M G A L G S N U J F O N W F

B J E Z. — M E F N Q V W F A J S S

Saturday's Cryptoquote: THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TO TRY AND INSPIRE PEOPLE SO THAT THEY CAN BE GREAT IN WHATEVER THEY WANT TO DO. — KOBE BRYANT

This tale wags the dog: 'Rescued by Ruby' tells K-9's story



Ruby, a working K-9 for the Rhode Island State Police and former shelter dog, holds in a down-stay outside the state police barracks in North Kingstown, R.I., Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2022.

Associated Press

By WILLIAM J. KOLE

Associated Press

NORTH KINGSTOWN, R.I.

(AP) — This is the story of

a mischievous mutt who turned out to be a very good girl. Such a good girl, in fact, that she saved a life.

Ruby, an Australian shepherd and border collie mix, ended up in a Rhode Island animal shelter as a pup because of persistent behavioral problems. Five families adopted her in turn, only for each to return her because she was too rambunctious.

"She was a total knucklehead," said shelter volunteer and dog trainer Patricia Inman, who repeatedly intervened to keep Ruby from being euthanized. "She jumped and bit her leash. She wouldn't sit or lie down. She just never stopped moving. She was special, and she needed a special person."

Enter state police Cpl. Daniel O'Neil, who needed a search-and-rescue dog. In 2011, he was taken by an eight-month-old Ruby's irrepressible energy and intelligence, and after Inman vouched for her, she was

trained as a police K-9.

Fast-forward to October 2017, when this tale takes an incredible twist: A teenage boy got lost for 36 hours while hiking, and Ruby succeeded where a human search party failed — she found the boy, who was unconscious and in grave medical condition. He turned out to be Inman's son.

"Rescued by Ruby," premiering March 17 on Netflix, tells the story of a problematic pooch who just needed another shot.

"Ruby was given a chance at life and ended up saving a life," the American Humane Hero Dog organization said in a 2018 citation naming her the nation's "Search and Rescue Dog of the Year."

In yet another twist, Ruby is played by a canine actor, Bear, another former shelter dog who was saved by the movie's dog trainers from being put down.

"It's a true underdog story," O'Neil, 41, said in an interview at his office at the Rhode Island State Police, where he now oversees an 18-dog K-9 unit.

"It's like divine intervention. She was given a chance and she's been doing everything she can to pay it back," he said. "You have this dog that was given up on, and she's changed so many people's lives."

O'Neil knew adopting a shelter dog written off as unmanageable was a gamble. Police dogs typically are bred for their work and trained from birth. Most state police K-9s cost \$7,500 and come from Europe.

But O'Neil recalls being impressed by Ruby's determination and focus, and she graduated at the top of her class. And as someone with dyslexia and hyperactivity, he identified with Ruby. "We both kind of know where each other's coming from," he said.

On the afternoon of the boy's rescue, Ruby led O'Neil straight to the teen, who had tumbled into a ravine. O'Neil's radio and GPS were out of range, but Ruby's repeated barking drew authorities to the scene. The youth, who has since recovered, declined to be interviewed.

When O'Neil knocked on the door of the boy's home to deliver the good news, he found himself face to face with Inman: "I said, 'Pat, this was her thank you for saving her life — she saved your boy's life.' And we both started to cry."

Later, as it all sank in, Inman found herself wondering: What if?

What if O'Neil hadn't taken a chance? What if Ruby had been put down?

"I was so grateful. I was beside myself and overwhelmed," she said. "So many things had to fall into place for this to happen the way it did. The universe works in mysterious ways."

O'Neil, who's played in the Netflix film by "The Flash" actor Grant Gustin, said he hopes people will consider adopting a shelter dog.

"If you show them love and compassion and you give them a certain type of stability, they'll show their true colors," he said. □

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24/7

Average U.S. gas price rises 22% in two weeks to record \$4.43



An advertisement for the series "The Dropout" is shown behind a price board at a gas station in San Francisco, on Tuesday, March 8, 2022.

Associated Press

CAMARILLO, Calif. (AP) — The average U.S. price of regular-grade gasoline shot up a whopping 79 cents over the past two weeks to a record-setting \$4.43 per gallon (3.8 liters) as Russia's invasion of Ukraine is contributing to already-high prices at the pump. Industry analyst Trilby Lundberg of the Lundberg Survey said Sunday the new price exceeds by 32 cents the prior all-time high of \$4.11 set in July 2008. But that's still quite a ways from the inflation-adjusted record high of about \$5.24 per gallon. The price at the pump is \$1.54 higher than it was a year ago. Lundberg said gas prices are likely to remain high in the short term as crude oil costs soar amid global sup-

ply concerns following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Prices at the pump were rising long before Russia invaded Ukraine as post-lockdown demand has pushed prices higher. Crude prices plummeted in early 2020 as economies around the world shut down because of COVID-19 — the price of futures even turned negative, meaning some sellers were paying buyers to take oil. Prices rebounded, however, as demand recovered faster than producers pulled oil out of the ground and inventories dried up. Then, the price increase accelerated after war began. Energy prices are also contributing to the worst inflation that Americans have seen in 40 years, far out-

pacing higher wages. Nationwide, the highest average price for regular-grade gas is in the San Francisco Bay Area, at \$5.79 per gallon. The lowest average is in Tulsa, Oklahoma, at \$3.80 per gallon. According to the survey, the average price of diesel also spiked, up \$1.18 over two weeks, to \$5.20 a gallon. Diesel costs \$2.11 more than it did one year ago. □



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Burns, Hoge share 36-hole lead at frigid TPC Sawgrass

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla.

(AP) — Sam Burns bundled up to fight near-freezing temperatures at the start and closed out his second round with a 75-foot eagle putt and an 18-foot par to share the lead with Tom Hoge after 36 holes in the rain-delayed Players Championship.

Hoge has been atop the leaderboard for four days at the TPC Sawgrass. He played golf on only two of those days. The Pebble Beach winner opened with a 66 on Thursday and because of rain delays, didn't start his second round until Sunday morning.

The temperature was 35 degrees Fahrenheit (1.6 degrees Celsius) in the morning with a light wind. Hoge closed with a pair of tough pars for a 71. Burns made his eagle on the par-5 16th and his big par on the final hole for a 69. They were at 7-under 137.

Erik van Rooyen, the South African who played his college golf at Minnesota, holed a wedge for eagle on the par-5 ninth hole to close out his 67 and leave him one shot behind with Harold Varner III, who had a 69.

This week is all about the weather. Four inches of rain that saturated the Stadium Course led to five hours of delays on Thursday, four hours of play on Friday and



Sam Burns hits from the pine straw on the 18th fairway during the second round of play in The Players Championship golf tournament Sunday, March 13, 2022, in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.

Associated Press

a late start — noon on Saturday — to get the course ready.

Sunday at TPC Sawgrass typically decides the winner. This time it was all about who got to keep playing into Monday evening.

Rory McIlroy and Scottie Scheffler can count themselves among the fortunate. They finished the second round Saturday at 2-over 146 and appeared certain to miss the cut with the final two groups finishing up the round.

And then Scott Piercy, who appeared safe at 2-under

par, hit two shots into the water on the island-green 17th and made a quadruple-bogey 7 that knocked him to 2 over. Piercy bogeyed the 18th and wound up missing the cut.

Others didn't get off so easy. The strongest field of the year won't include three of the top 10 players in the world — Collin Morikawa, Patrick Cantlay and Xander Schauffele.

One thing made clear at the halfway point was who lucked out on the tee times. The top 15 players going into the third round all had

the early-late side of the tee times, meaning they faced mostly calm and rain-soaked conditions on Thursday and avoided the ferocious wind that wreaked havoc on the Stadium Course on Saturday. Burns was watching most of Saturday on TV.

"I just felt bad for the guys that had to play," he said. "You never wish that upon your opponents. It's unfortunate. Over your career, you have good waves and bad waves. ... There's only so much you can control out there, and weather is

not one of them." Burns did his part after a sloppy start to his back nine, including what he described as one of the worst shots he ever hit, a 7-iron that went 126 yards into a bunker on the 10th hole.

The bonus was his eagle putt on the 16th after a shot that avoided water by some 5 yards and left him a putt from the front of the green to a back pin.

Kevin Kisner was among those on the wrong side of the draw, and his only wish was that players on Sunday morning suffered in the cold weather. That wish was granted. Hoge found himself layering up with three sweaters and even that wasn't enough.

But he played good golf, too, playing bogey-free for the final 17 holes.

Even with the realization that it was Sunday afternoon, the tournament was more like a Friday afternoon. There's still a long way to go, and 32 players were within five shots of the lead. That included Jon Rahm, who played Sunday morning and shot 72, and Dustin Johnson, who had a 73 on Saturday that felt much better.

The average score was 74.46, about a full stroke lower than it was at the end of Saturday to reflect how much better the conditions were, even in the cold. □

Brent Sass maintains lead as Iditarod reaches Bering Sea ice



Musher Brent Sass speaks to reporters after completing the nearly 1,000 mile Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race in Nome, Alaska on March 12, 2012.

Associated Press

By MARK THIESSEN
Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Brent Sass continued

to lead the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race on Sunday, but he must hold off the defending champion as mushers have reached the Bering Sea sea coast and its treacherous ice.

Sass breezed through the checkpoint in the village of Shaktoolik on Sunday morning, staying only eight minutes. The village is 754 miles (1,213 kilometers) into the nearly 1,000-mile (1,609-kilometer) race, and the winner is expected to cross the finish line in Nome on Tuesday or Wednesday.

According to GPS trackers each musher carries, Sass had a lead of just over 10 miles (16 kilometers) on Dal-

las Seavey, who tied Rick Swenson for the most Iditarod victories at five with his 2021 Iditarod win.

But the GPS data on the race's Iditarod Insider website also showed Seavey running at a faster clip even though he is mushing with two fewer dogs than the 12 Sass has in harness.

Aaron Burmeister was in third place, but about 40 miles (64 kilometers) behind Seavey.

Sass picked up another award late Saturday when he was the first musher to reach the Gold Coast. Among the prizes presented to him in the community of Unalakleet was 1 ounce

(28.35 grams) of gold nuggets, worth about \$2,000.

He's previously been awarded several cash prizes, artwork and a gourmet meal for being the first musher to reach checkpoints dotting the trail from the Anchorage area to the Gold Rush town of Nome.

Sass turned down the gourmet meal, however, because he didn't have time to eat it.

The world's most famous sled dog race began with 49 mushers on March 6 in Willow, about 75 miles (121 kilometers) north of Anchorage.

Since then, four have withdrawn from the race. □

Durant scores 53, Nets edge Knicks 110-107 as Irving watches

NEW YORK (AP) — A roar arose inside Barclays Center and for one of the few times Sunday, Kevin Durant had nothing to do with it. This time, it was Kyrie Irving walking through the crowd to take a seat across the court from the Nets bench, an unusual view for his first home game this season. Durant said he looked over at teammate Andre Drummond on the foul line and they smiled.

"Yo, like this is unreal," Durant said, describing their exchange. "Like, I've never seen nothing like this before."

He then gave Irving a sensational show.

Durant scored a season-high 53 points, making the tiebreaking 3-pointer, and Brooklyn beat the New York Knicks 110-107.

Durant's 3-pointer snapped a 103-all tie with 56 seconds remaining. He added four more free throws to keep the Nets ahead, finishing one point shy of his career high.

Durant also had nine assists and six rebounds in his 60th career 40-point performance.

"That man's insane," teammate Bruce Brown said. "He makes everything look easy out there."

Irving had a nice view, still unable to play in New York. There is no longer a mandate that spectators are vaccinated against the coronavirus, but there is still one requiring it for someone who works there. Irving has not been vaccinated. So the star guard had a seat in the stands, just as he did a night earlier to watch his college team, Duke, lose in the ACC championship game. He walked off arm-in-arm with Durant toward the Nets locker room after the game ended.

Durant then spent a good chunk of his postgame interview calling on New York City Mayor Eric Adams to change the mandate, calling it "ridiculous" that unvaccinated people could be in the arena but not play in it.

Drummond had 18 points and 10 rebounds for the Nets, who won their third

straight. Brown scored 15 points. Julius Randle scored 26 points and Evan Fournier had 25 for the Knicks, who finished 3-4 on their road trip. RJ Barrett had 24.

Durant scored 16 points in the first quarter and Brooklyn was ahead much of the way, but the Knicks rallied to take a 103-101 lead on Barrett's basket. Drummond's dunk tied it before Durant sprinted out to the wing to catch and fire in his fourth 3-pointer of the game. He finished 19 of 37 from the field.

"He's one of the best to ever do it. So it's tough when he gets hot like that," Barrett said. "We did hold our own. It was a close game, we had opportunities, we had chances. But especially the shot he hit with a minute



Brooklyn Nets' Kevin Durant, right, shoots over New York Knicks' Mitchell Robinson during the first half of the NBA basketball game at the Barclays Center, Sunday, Mar. 13, 2022, in New York.

Associated Press

left was a big shot."

It was a two-point game when Irving emerged to walk to his seats with just under 4 1/2 minutes remaining in the first half. He walked through the stands from the

further tunnel, with some fans chanting "Free Kyrie! Free Kyrie!" as he walked by. He exchanged some hugs at his seat, where he sat maskless.

TIP-INS

Knicks: Obi Toppin returned after missing five games with a strained left hamstring and scored eight points. ... Coach Tom Thibodeau said rookie Quentin Grimes, out with a right knee injury, was pretty much going at full speed and his next step was to take part in contact portions of practice. He had no update on Derrick Rose, who had a procedure to address a skin infection on his surgically repaired right ankle.

Nets: Seth Curry was originally in the starting lineup but was scratched because of left ankle soreness. ... Nic Claxton scored 10 points. ... The Nets are 3-0 against the Knicks this season and have won the last six meetings. □

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Palm Beach – When you think of a restaurant that pleases the needs of a whole family or a large group of people with all different tastes? Think Water's Edge Restaurant. Located at the shore of Aruba's most wonderful beach, The Eagle Beach Aruba. Water's Edge Restaurant is guaranteed to serve you a fantastic magical night to remember. Whether you prefer to enjoy the view from indoors air conditioned comfort, outdoors in the soft tropical breeze or under a palapa with your toes in the sand. This spectacular restaurant offers the best ocean view sunset or sky full of stars dinner while the crispy Caribbean night wind caresses your face and plays with your hair.

From the minute you arrive there will be a great staff welcoming you with the most contagious smiles and warmth. The intense menu with a great variety of appetizers, main courses and delicious desserts will not disappoint. Seafood, Steaks and international favorites. All on one menu specially made just for you.

Culinary Voyage

Start your gastronomic journey with a scrumptious appetizer such as the Maryland Crab Cakes, maybe the Crispy Calamari or the mouthwatering

creamy Garlic Tarragon Shrimp. You can also opt for a classic French Onion Soup, a Lobster Bisque or the famously Water's Edge House Wedge, a crisp wedge of fresh romaine lettuce topped with homemade blue cheese dressing, diced tomatoes, chopped bacon, caramelized pecans and blue cheese crumbles, drizzled with balsamic reduction. This followed by the Chef's special of seafood such as Fresh salmon filet seasoned and grilled, topped with lemon cilantro butter and served with homemade mashed potatoes and fresh asparagus, a nice plate of Ahi Tuna or a succulent pasta dish like the Florentina Fettuccine Alfredo. Meat Lovers will have their fix with choices of a devourable 22oz. Bone-In "Tomahawk" Rib-Eye, pan seared in garlic infused oil and finished in the oven or our juicy N.Y Strip Loin, seasoned & grilled. All our steaks options are seasoned with a blend of kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper. Served with homemade mashed potatoes, seasoned vegetables and a choice of red wine reduction, green peppercorn demi glace, mushroom sauce, or bacon blue cheese butter. For extra sides the options are delectable. Fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, mashed or baked potatoes, fries or rice and beans. Combine

your personal choice with one of the most exclusive wine from the great selection of international wines to compliment your dish. Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled kids menu and there are also optional dishes for all vegans, vegetarians and gluten-free guests. To end the culinary voyage with some luscious sweetness, the desserts are wild. From a piece of coconut flan, NY cheese cake, carrot cake, chocolate brownie or our classic Tiramisu with kahlua and amaretto served with chocolate sauce and coffee jelly. Not to mention the fresh and light piece of key lime pie.

Creating memories

If you are planning a birthday dinner, here you will receive a nice bottle of champagne to take home with you to extend your experience even further whether on the beach or your own private balcony.

Live entertainment

Just about every day of the week, there is a different live entertainment by the best local artists for you to enjoy. Whether you're in a romantic mood, or more in a swinging mood, there is absolutely a night especially for you where you can combine great music with delicious cocktails mixed with concoctions. In addition, Water's Edge offers three daily Happy Hours from 12pm-1pm, 4pm-6pm and again from 9pm-10pm with all premium brands specially priced.

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Whether you join us for breakfast, lunch or dinner, Water's Edge Restaurant & Bar offers a relaxed and inspirational dining experience overlooking the beautiful Eagle Beach with spectacular ocean views. Gather with friends and family for drinks and appetizers or a night of pampering and relaxation.



Thank you to all our guests

From the bottom of our hearts, we would like to Thank all of our guests who showed us so much love and support all through 2021, and hopefully will continue to do so in 2022. What we are most grateful for is that we could get back to doing what we love, which is looking after our guests. So, thank you for every dinner, lunch, breakfast, every to-go order, every glass of wine, every birthday, anniversary and date-night that you spent with us this last year. To our new guests, Welcome! We hope you to see you back soon! ☐



"Water's Edge Restaurant is where magnificent beach views, amazing food and excellent service come together."

Water's Edge is open daily from 8am – 11pm

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For more information about the menus, entertainment and hours, please visit the website watersedge-aruba.com

